

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 L-03 IGA-02 SS-15 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 HEW-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7885

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR/MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

REF: STATE 168965

1. POLCOUNS SENT SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL BY LETTER TO DR. BELSASSO, FOLLOWING WHICH BELSASSO CONSULTED WITH FONOFF AND ATTORNEY GENERAL, PRODUCING THE FOLLOWING "COUNTER-PROPOSAL". IN INTEREST OF SAVING TIME EMBASSY DID NOT NEGOTIATE SPECIFICS OF LANGUAGE WITH BELSASSO, BUT AGREED TO SEND ENTIRE TEXT TO DEPARTMENT FOR EARLY ANSWER.

2. BELSASSO'S TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR DR. BELSASSO:

IT IS A PLEASURE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE MEXICAN NATIONAL CENTER FOR DRUG DEPENDENCY RESEARCH (CEMEF) A TOTAL OF ONE MAN YEAR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS CONSULTANTS IN THE FORMULATION AND EXECUTION OF AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF

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NARCOTICS ABUSE IN MEXICO AND AS TEACHERS IN A GRADUATE

TRAINING PROGRAM IN SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH METHODS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS TO ENABLE CEMEF TO CARRY OUT A TWO-YEAR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE USE AND MISUSE OF LEGAL PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS AND ILLICIT DRUGS AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO JOINT, ONGOING US/MEXICAN EFFORTS TO CURB DRUG ABUSE. THIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE FINANCED BY A SPECIAL GRANT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,650 AND CONTRACTED TO THE RESOURCE PLANNING CORPORATION OF MIAMI, FLORIDA.

FOR ITS PART CEMEF AGREES THAT IT WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES (OTHER THAN THOSE PROVIDED HEREUNDER) TO CARRY OUT THE FULL TWO YEAR PROGRAM. CEMEF ALSO AGREES THAT ACCESS WILL BE GIVEN AT ANY TIME TO PERSONNEL OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION (SAODAP) FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING THE WORK OF THE RESOURCE PLANNING CORPORATION OF MIAMI, AND CEMEF WILL GIVE AN OPINION TO SAODAP ON THE WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE END OF THE CONTRACT PERIOD AND AT SUCH OTHER TIMES AS THEY SHALL REQUEST.

THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS PROJECT WILL BE SAODAP OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND CEMEF WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO.

IF YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT, THIS LETTER AND YOUR REPLY SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS THAT THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE CITED, AND UNDER THE CONDITIONS STATED.

SINCERELY,
ROBERT H. MCBRIDE
AMBASSADOR UNQUOTE

3. IT IS APPARENT THAT CEMEF CONTINUES TO CONSIDER THE RESEARCH TRAINING ASPECT OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE IMPORTANT. AS BELSASSO EXPLAINED IN COVERING LETTER TO EMBASSY, HE BELIEVES ONE ASPECT OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE TO TRAIN CEMEF PERSONNEL IN RESEARCH PROJECTS, WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPHASIS ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES WHICH OF COURSE CONTRIBUTE TO WORLDWIDE EFFORTS TO REDUCE DRUG ABUSE. AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, HE NOTED, IS THAT SUCH TRAINING WOULD HELP ASSURE COMPARABILITY OF STUDY RESULTS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. IN FRANK FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION, BELSASSO MADE PLAIN HIS INABILITY AND/OR UNWILLINGNESS TO GO MUCH

FARTHER IN LANGUAGE CHANGES. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR USG ASSISTANCE BUT FELT IT NOT POSSIBLE TO YIELD MUCH FURTHER ON REFERENCES TO RESEARCH TRAINING AND MONITORING PROVISIONS. TO DO SO MIGHT LEAVE CEMEF OPEN TO FUTURE PROBLEMS, HE SAID, AND HE WOULD REGRETFULLY FOREGO US AID RATHER THAN CREATE DIFFICULTIES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT AT THIS POINT BELSASSO'S REPUTATION AS MEXICAN AND BUREAUCRAT IS ON LINE WITH FONSEC AND ATTY. GENERAL, AND HE PROBABLY FEELS GENUINE INABILITY TO GO MUCH FURTHER IN CHANGING LANGUAGE. WE BELIEVE CEMEF HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN NARCOTICS, OUR NUMBER ONE PROBLEM WITH MEXICO, AND WOULD HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN ITS REPLY. IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE TO LOSE CEMEF'S GOODWILL, AND COOPERATION OVER THESE RELATIVELY MINOR POINTS.

5. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE BELSASSO WITH COPY OF ORIGINAL CHAMBERS PROPOSAL, BUT CANNOT LOCATE COPY SENT FROM WASHINGTON. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT POUCHING COPY OF PROPOSAL IN ARA/MEX FILES.
MCBRIDE

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